

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A movable barrier operator comprises a pattern generator for projecting a beam across the barrier path; a CCD camera for recording a pattern produced by  
5 projected beam across the barrier path; and a controller for sensing when the pattern produced by projected beam is changed by presence of an obstacle, and generating an obstacle detection signal in response thereto. The movable barrier operator is responsive to the obstacle  
10 detection signal to control the barrier drive.